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5 November 1955



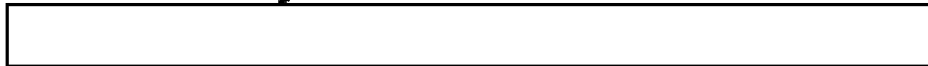
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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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4. RETURN OF BEN YOUSSEF TO MOROCCAN THRONE EXPECTED BY 18 NOVEMBER

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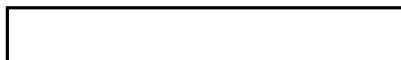


A French Foreign Ministry spokesman has told American embassy officials that Mohamed ben Youssef will probably be restored to the Moroccan throne before 18 November, the anniversary of his accession to the throne in 1927.

The official assumed that Paris would simultaneously accept the resignation Resident General Boyer de Latour has tendered several times recently. Leon Marchal, secretary general of the Council of Europe, who resigned from the Foreign Ministry in 1953 in protest against Ben Youssef's removal, and General Marie Bethouart, who currently represents the French of Morocco in the French Council of the Republic, were mentioned as possible successors.

Comment

Pressure is being built up by the nationalists to keep Ben Youssef from making concessions before returning to Morocco, while Paris is believed to be trying to reach a favorable agreement with the former sultan before he returns. Current activities of the Moroccan nationalists in their demands for independence raise doubts that Ben Youssef's return will quiet the country.



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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700 4 November)

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[REDACTED] Military action, aside from a minor skirmish in the southern part of the Gaza area on the morning of 4 November and sporadic fighting in the El Auja area, appears to have ceased, [REDACTED]

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The Israeli Foreign Ministry announced on 3 November: "The Israeli Defense Force operation was aimed at removing the Egyptian forces from Israeli area." This, according to Israeli spokesmen, has been accomplished.

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[REDACTED]

According to a UN observer, about 750 Israeli troops participated in the attack. This official also reported that on the evening of 3 November UN observers were again given freedom of movement on the Israeli side but not on the Egyptian side. Israeli statements and attitudes suggest that they are ready to consider this particular incident closed. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Israel, continuing its drive to secure military equipment, has contacted a Belgian firm for immediate delivery of 300 rocket launchers with 20-30,000 3.5 rocket rounds. [REDACTED]

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Syria [REDACTED] moved 1,000 troops and some equipment toward the Israeli frontier on 3 November. Although Iraq on 31 August was trying to promote bilateral pacts with Lebanon and Syria aimed at countering Cairo's alignment with Damascus, the Iraqi press has called for a closing of ranks against Israeli aggressions. [REDACTED]

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General Burns, chief of the UN truce organization, is expected back in Palestine on 6 November to impress both sides with the need to observe the truce. An Israeli spokesman, commenting on the anticipated arrival of Burns stated, "We shall co-operate fully with General Burns in any effort he makes to bring about a reduction of tension." [REDACTED]

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Soviet ambassador Abramov returned to Israel yesterday after six weeks in the USSR.

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